Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 4, 11 and 13-16. Please amend Claims 1 and 2. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for detecting the presence or absence of ~~[a prokaryotic~~ microorganism] *Listeria monocytogenes* in a sample, the method comprising the steps of:

a) contacting a test sample with a substrate specific for a protease that is unique to [a prokaryotic microorganism] *Listeria monocytogenes*; and

b) detecting cleavage of the substrate or absence of cleavage of the substrate,

wherein cleavage of the substrate is indicative of the presence of [the prokaryotic microorganism] *Listeria monocytogenes* in the sample, and absence of cleavage of the substrate is indicative of the absence of [the prokaryotic microorganism] *Listeria monocytogenes* in the sample.

Claim 2 (currently amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the quenched label is selected from the group consisting of fluorescent [label] labels and [a] colorimetric [label] labels.

Claim 3 (previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the cleavage is detected using a colorimeter or fluorimeter.

Claim 4 (canceled)

Claim 5 (original) A method of using broad spectrum fluorescent or colorimetric labeled peptides to recognize a bacterial species by detecting the conjugated peptide with a colorimeter or fluorimeter.

Claim 6 (original) A device for capturing and releasing bacteria from solid or liquid extracts comprising protein encapsulated starch or Styrofoam.

Claim 7 (original) A device for capturing and releasing bacteria from a sample, said device comprising a pellet and a layer of antibodies entrapped in gelatin surrounding said pellet.

Claim 8 (previously presented) A sensor for detection of a microbial pathogen in a sample, said sensor comprising packaging material having a first side proximal to said sample and having a second side; and having a detectably labeled substrate specific for a protease produced by said microbial pathogen attached to said first side.

Claim 9 (previously presented) A method for using an alpha-crystallin type protein comprising the steps of:

a) expressing and purifying the recombinant alpha-crystallin type protein; and

b) adding the alpha-crystallin type protein to a solid phase or a liquid phase assay containing a day labeled peptide in an amount sufficient to reduce proteolysis of said dye labeled peptide.

Claim 10 (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the substrate is labeled with a quenched label.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the protease is a metalloprotease.

Claims 13 - 16 (canceled)